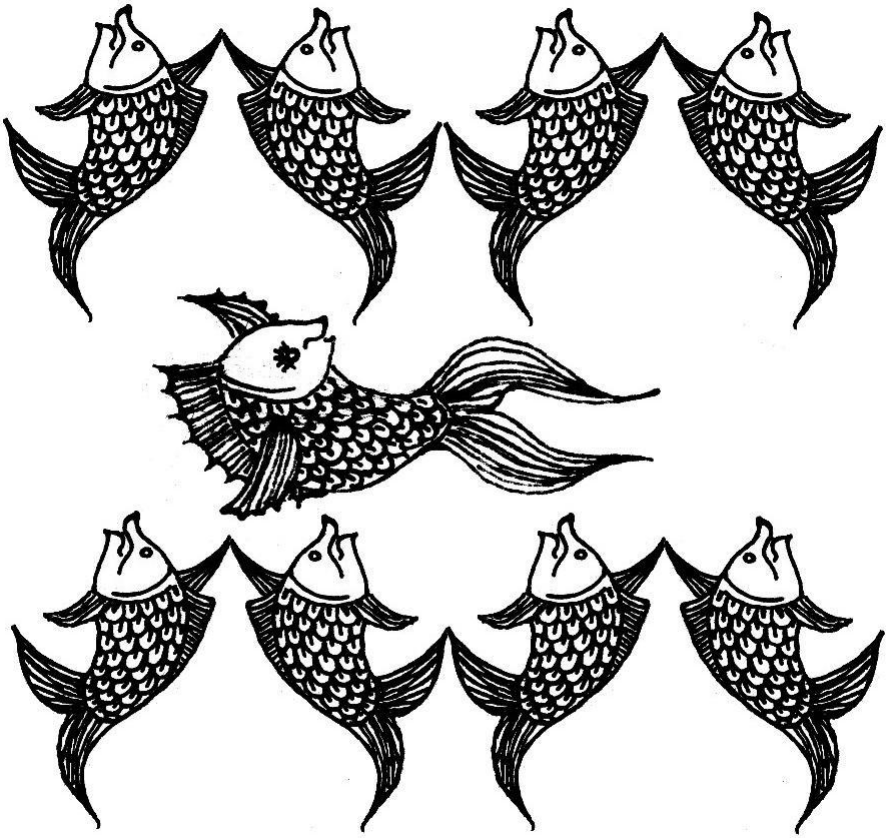
QUOI DE NEUF

The 29th Annual British Filk Convention



3rd – 5th February, 2017
The Best Western Hotel, Marks Tey, Colchester

Welcome to PR1 for Quoi de Neuf!

Quoi de Neuf will be the 29th annual U.K. Filk Convention.

It's been a long hot crazy summer, there was a long wet spring before it, there's been altogether too much Life™ and Things Going On getting in the way, and who knows what delights the autumn holds.

Last time the three of us ran a Filk convention (*Quartertone)*, we chose to look back and celebrate the body of work produced over the past twenty-five years. This time, inspired by the name of the convention, we're looking forward.

So what's new?

Well, there's this *Quoi de Neuf* PR One. It's unfortunately a bit later than we intended, and therefore contains some things you might (in the more normal run of events) have expected to see in PR Two. Please give it a read through, watching out for things like hotel booking and programme spot requesting instructions, and taking appropriate action.

We're not planning any radical changes to the programme; we'll have the usual mix of workshops, individual concerts, circles, and the open concert. We *are* planning a themed concert, described later in this PR. Of course, we're open to suggestions…

Our community has always looked backwards and forwards (and sideways), whether singing about the Trojan War or the end of the galaxy. Come along to Mark's Tey in February to answer the question…

… what's new?

— Mike, Rick and Miki

Programming

A few folk have already submitted requests for sets and workshops, but there is still room for more: the sooner you let us know, the more likely you are to get a slot! If you would like a slot (and haven't emailed us or written it on your membership form) then please send us a request. We currently plan to feature 30 minute and 60 minute slots.

Of course, we cannot guarantee to fit everyone who wants a slot in, but we will try our best. It is particularly important to let us know if you will need significant set-up or tear-down time, or have any constraints on timing.

There will, of course, be the usual Main Concert at which anybody is welcome to sign up for one or two songs, as well as open circles through the evenings and into the night.

Themed concert

In addition to the main concert, we will have a Themed Concert. This time, we are looking for songs on the theme of "What's new?" Of course, this theme could be interpreted in many ways… and there may even be a small prize for the most "creative" interpretation.

The Quoi De Neuf committee

Miki Dennis: hotel liaison and artwork
Rick Hewett: tech liaison and website
Mike Richards: treasurer and membership

Guests of honour

Jackie Mitchell got into filk after overhearing a conversation at a Gilbert and Sullivan rehearsal about a choir that sang songs about SF and Fantasy works. After expressing an interest she quickly found herself invited along to a rehearsal of the N'Early Music Consort, and has been an active member of both choir and wider community ever since.

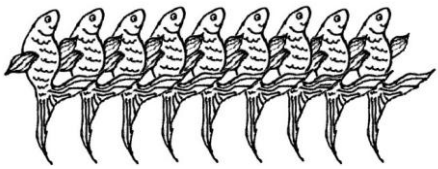
Cecilia Eng wandered into filking in 1984 when she got bored with the gaming one night at a large convention and heard music coming from down the hall. She's been writing and performing filk ever since, from the silly to the sublime, with lots of stops in between. She's an engaging performer, and she's one of the most welcoming filkers in any circle.

Volunteering

Any filk con relies on the good offices of volunteers to keep everything running… if not smoothly, then at least in the same direction. This includes holding down Registration, helping set up the room, and running Tech. If you are willing and able to help, please let us know.

The Filk Fund

The cost of the flights for our overseas guest is once again being paid for by the Filk Fund. We will be having an auction at the convention to raise funds so that this can continue into the future.



The hotel

We’re going back to the Best Western Hotel in Marks Tey. Just off the A12 near Colchester, it is also reasonably easily reached by public transport from most of the U.K.

The hotel address is:

London Road, Marks Tey, Colchester, Essex, CO6 1DU, UK.

The hotel will be providing economical food and tea/coffee options, but there are a number of alternatives within reasonable walking distance. There is also a convenience store and chemist nearby.

As with last year, we have booked two function rooms within the hotel. The Main hall is on the first floor beside a lobby/lounge area which will host the convention bar and the Dealer space; there is a lift leading directly to it from a small lobby. The secondary function space, the bar and dining room, and most of the residential accommodation, is on the ground floor. In addition, there is a health spa/swimming pool just outside of the main hotel complex.

Rooms are available with or without including the cost of breakfast, if you prefer to make your own arrangements. Single, twin and double rooms are available; you can also book two adjoining rooms (“family” on the booking form). A very limited number of rooms fitted for disabled access are available.

Recording at the convention

Members who wish to record parts of the convention for their own use may do so, always subject to the wishes of the performers concerned. However, remember the basic principles, and note that these apply to circles as well as to main programme items.

1. THE CON IS FOR THE LISTENERS

If you are recording, please keep your recording equipment out of people's way, avoid trailing wires, and avoid disturbing other people's enjoyment as you use it. That means no loud clicks, no asking the performer to wait while you change a tape or to do a "sound check", etc. Note that with modern equipment there should be no need to change media during a set (MDs last for at least 74 minutes on standard, MP3 recorders much longer).

2. Any recordings are FOR PERSONAL USE ONLY

Broadcast, copying for another persons' use, or other distribution (which includes MP3s on a web site) is prohibited without the explicit permission of everyone involved (that includes all performers, song and tune writers).

This doesn't mean that you can't take it home and play it to the family, or to a neighbour who's interested, but treat it the same as a rental video. If you have all the permissions, there's no problem.

This also means that if you are asked not to record or photograph something, you must not do so. There are filkers who, for whatever reason, will not perform if there is anything recording - they have a right to be heard, you do not have a right to go against their wishes. For this reason, **no unattended recording** will be permitted. If you need to pop to the loo or bar, always leave someone you trust (or failing that, a fellow filker!) in charge of the "off" switch.

Tech

The Tech equipment is there to help you sound as good as possible. The techies can use it to best effect if they know what you want, and it will help them a lot if they know this **in advance** so they can bring the right equipment.

If you would like a slot, here are some of the questions you should answer - preferably in your set request:

- How many performers?
- What sort of space will the performers need?
- What instruments will the performers be playing?

It will also help the techies if you can provide a set list. If it's complicated then it will help if they have it before the Con, but for simpler sets it's OK to give it to them just before you do a sound check. Ideally, the set list will answer the questions above and a few more, like these:

- Where on stage do you want your performers?
- Who sings in each song?
- Who plays which instruments in each song?
- Will your performers sit, stand, dance, or...?
- What backing tracks (preferably on plain old ordinary audio CD!), or other techie-controlled effects are needed in each song?

Concise, clear information will help. If your set list strays over onto a second page then it is probably too complicated!

Membership as of 1st September 2016:

Cecilia Eng	Gwen Funnell	Rick
Jackie Mitchell	Ginny Ickle	Rika
Abi	Valerie Housden	Roger Robinson
Alex	Inamac	Shadow
Alistair	Rhodri James	Silke
Alex Allcock	Jela	Songbird
Amy Allcock	Ju	Dave Stevenson
Lissa Allcock	Michael Kinder	Jessica Stevenson
Aunty Marion	KT	Lydia Stevenson
Kate Barton	Les	Naomi Stevenson
Michael Bernardi	Liz	Barbara Stewart
Bine	Raynar Lucas	John Stewart
Kent Bloom	Mad Logician	Teddy
Bob	Janet Maughan	The Magician
Susan Booth	Robert Maughan	tiggy
Colin	Melusine	Peter Tyers
Debbie Crook	Miki	Peter Wareham
Rafe Culpin	Minnow	Karen Westhead
Lawrence Dean	Mary Morman	Kathy Westhead
Debbie L	Nat	Mike Westhead
Sue Edwards	Paul B. =:o}	Peter Westhead
Fantom	Rachel	Dale Williamson
Fhtagn	Alison Richards	Ωmega
Colin Fine	Mike Richards	♬

Quoi de Neuf can be contacted via email at QuoiDeNeuf@hewett.org or found on the web at http://www.contabile.org.uk/quoideneuf/

The postal address is: Quoi de Neuf, 20 Glynbridge Gardens, Cheltenham

Attending adult memberships: **£36** (waged) or **£25** (unwaged)

Children aged 5 to 17 years: **£1 per year of age** at time of joining
Children under 5: **£0** (free, but please register them!)

Euro rates are available, and bookings can be taken on our web-site.

Quoi de Neuf hotel booking form

The Best Western Hotel, Marks Tey, Colchester; 3rd - 5th February, 2017

My name is: _____

I would like to book the following room(s) at Quoi de Neuf:

____ SINGLE ____ TWIN ____ DOUBLE ____ FAMILY

for the following nights (please mark as appropriate):

THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

I would like the con to find me a sharer / I will be sharing with:

_____

I understand it is my responsibility to settle my hotel bill.

Please let us know of any special requirements, such as needing a ground floor room or disabled room:

Room rates (per night):

Single: £55 (room only) or £62 (with breakfast)
Double and Twin: £62 (room only) or £70 (with breakfast)
Adjoining/family rooms: £130 (4 adults) £110 (2 adults, 2 children)
Adjoining rooms with breakfast: £150

Please return this form before 1st January 2017 to:

Quoi de Neuf, 15 St Catherine's Cross, Bletchingley, Surrey RH1 4PX